

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 AUGUSTS 2017, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

N. Clementson (Chairman) A. Robb, P. Ewen, A. Birchfield, T. Archer, S. Challenger, P. McDonnell, J. Douglas, F. Tumahai

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science & Innovation Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 11 July 2017, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Archer asked for an update on the proposed One District Plan for the West Coast in view of Buller District Council (BDC) not being on board with this. M. Meehan responded that the resolution from BDC was that by majority they agreed in principle but with some conditions. He stated that the next stage is to provide more detail and to go back to the district councils with a final proposal for approval.

Cr Challenger drew attention to the general business section of the minutes regarding the works at Franz Josef, he asked for an update on progress to date. G. McCormack advised that works commenced on 14 July and he was advised by Westland District Council (WDC) that the works were being carried out under emergency works. M. Meehan stated that initially Council intended to serve an Abatement Notice on WDC, but once it became apparent that WDC was working under the emergency works provision of the RMA, the Abatement Notice was not served. M. Meehan acknowledged that there was a communication gap between WDC and this council and it took a while to unravel what was actually going on. M. Meehan advised that Council's Consents and Engineering staff are working with WDC to assist where we can. It was noted that WDC has seven days from commencing work to notify Council and then 20 days after this to put in a consent application. M. Meehan stated that there was a communication gap, but now that a Consultant and Project Manager have been appointed this has helped immensely. Cr Ewen asked if NZTA had to get consent to do work at the 55 km corner as this is outside the area. M. Meehan confirmed that this work was also done under emergency works, and NZTA is going through a process to bring all works on the Waiho River under one consent. G. McCormack confirmed that this consent is yet to come through. M. Meehan answered further questions from Councillors relating to consents for the Waiho River. G. McCormack answered questions from Cr Challenger regarding charges for consent applications.

Cr Birchfield asked if there has been any progress with the Sawyers Creek project. M. Meehan responded that this project work will be carried out by H. Mills and he will report on this next month.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Clementson reported that he attended the launch of the Economic Development Action Plan on 13 July.

Cr Clementson reported that he and Cr Archer attended a meeting of the Punakaiki rating district on 1 August. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to gain feedback on the changes made to the Annual Plan, including the extension of the seawall and the changes to the rating differentials. Cr Archer stated that he felt the rating district was appreciative of Council taking on board the submissions they made and carrying out the changes to the Annual Plan.

Cr Clementson reported that he and Cr Archer attended the Carters Beach community meeting on 2 August. Cr Clementson advised that there were approximately 140 people in attendance. He stated that the NIWA report on Carters Beach erosion was discussed along with four potential proposals. Cr Clementson stated that a unanimous decision was made to wait and see what happens with designated trigger points, and if the trigger points were met then options and pricing would be discussed at a future meeting. The attendees were also provided with costings for rock walls which will be confirmed by engineering staff. Cr Clementson stated that Buller District Councillor, Phil Rutherford, presented a proposal from the Kawatiri River Trust seeking funding to use rubble from the demolition of the Cape Foulwind cement works to possibly build a rock wall for a raised cycleway, which could incorporate seawall protection. Cr Clementson advised that a decision on this is about 18 months away. Cr Clementson stated that soft engineering options were agreed with no mow zones to allow native grasses to grow, no driftwood collection and to let natural processes restore a dune or a natural bund. Cr Clementson advised that it was agreed that Council will source Envirolink funding to help with natural structures and vegetation work. Cr Archer stated that he feels the community accepted the content of the NIWA report and the community's view is that the erosion cycle has possibly reached the equilibrium. He noted that the community is supportive of trigger points identified in the NIWA report for Council to keep an eye on and to take next steps should the erosion accelerate. Cr Archer agreed with Cr Clementson that this was a very positive meeting.

Moved (Clementson / Robb) *That the report is received.*

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING REPORT

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that a final version of the submission on National Planning Standards Discussion Documents, including the feedback from the district councils, was submitted to MfE on 31 July. Cr Archer commented that one solution will not be appropriate for all councils throughout the country. Cr Archer stated that this submission is a very good response and he passed on congratulations to staff for their work on this.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *That the report is received.*

Carried

5.1.2 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that to date there have been no exceedances of the NES for PM₁₀ in Reefton this winter. H. Mills reported that the gaps in data are due to equipment malfunctions. Discussion took place on the new monitoring site. M. Meehan advised that the previous monitoring site has been sold and therefore a new site was sought. M. Meehan advised that MfE were consulted on the move as this is a gazetted air shed. He advised that the

monitoring site needs to be located in the worst possible location. M. Meehan stated that Reefton residents have previously expressed concern about the old site as there were three particularly bad chimneys in this area. He stated that the new site is at the Reefton School and this is a secure site and is not far from the old site. M. Meehan stated that it is hard to say whether the inversion layer has been as predominant as previous years, as in the past there have been between four and 29 exceedances each year since monitoring began in 2006. Cr Clementson stated that it may be that the Reefton community has taken on board some of the education work that has been done in recent years.

Moved (Archer / Challenger)

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that four site visits were carried out, 12 non-notified consents were processed during the reporting period along with three consent variations. G. McCormack reported that 25 whitebait stand resource consents are yet to be received. He stated that these owners have been written to and phoned and staff have done as much as possible to ensure that these consent holders do renew their consents and that they are not lost to the consent holder. Cr Archer asked G. McCormack if, as previously discussed at last month's meeting, if Council would still consider picking up these outstanding consents. G. McCormack confirmed that this is the fairest way, as they will be easier to reconcile, but he is hopeful that this will not be necessary and that the owners will renew their consents. It was agreed that this is a good common sense approach.

Cr Ewen drew attention to an inaccuracy with the public enquiry section of this report. He stated that he had submitted a written enquiry on 9 June under the LGOIMA regarding the dust management plan at Rapahoe; he did not get the information until 17 July via the intervention of The Ombudsman.

G. McCormack answered further questions from Councillors.

Moved (Challenger / Birchfield)

1. *That the August 2017 report of the Consents Group be received.*
2. *That Council takes over the resource consents for whitebait stands that are yet to have their resource consent renewed.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that one abatement notice was issued in relation to the discharge of dairy effluent. G. McCormack reported that three mining work programmes were received and one mining bond during the reporting period.

Cr Challenger stated that there has been confusion over who initiated the work that Westland District Council is carrying out in Franz Josef and which rule of RMA the works are being carried out under. M. Meehan noted that communication has been poor with this matter.

Cr Challenger asked how bad the level of non-compliance was for the abatement notice that was issued. G. McCormack responded that this case relates to the size of the dairy herd and the requirement for environmental sampling if there is an increase in herd numbers.

F. Tumahai asked if a note is kept of repeat offenders. G. McCormack advised that each case is dealt with on its individual merits, then back history is checked for formal enforcement action, the environmental impact is then assessed prior to prosecution decisions being made. G. McCormack answered questions relating to historic and repeat offenders and other compliance matters.

Moved (Ewen / McDonnell) *That the report be received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Ewen spoke of questions he had emailed to M. Meehan on 28 April regarding the transfer of mining functions. Cr Ewen stated that he did not get answers to his questions in a timely manner. M. Meehan apologised and stated that G. McCormack had followed up on these matters with Westland District Council. G. McCormack advised that his staff cross referenced consents held by this Council against mining sites that are operational, with consents for mining sites that Westland District Council hold that are operational. He explained the process to the meeting and stated that there are a few that did not have land use consent with Westland District Council, but this might not have been done due to the transfer of function. M. Meehan confirmed that in order to reduce risk, Council did not take any liability on prior to 1 August 2017. Cr Birchfield commented that he supports of the transfer of function; he noted that there is an out clause in the agreement.

G. McCormack answered questions relating to an incident at Ross which is yet to be investigated. Cr Clementson stated that he will be an apology for the September meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.12 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date